



**Minutes of the Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club Annual General Meeting
Held at 1930hrs on Tuesday 2nd February 2016 at John Harvey Tavern. Lewes**

The meeting was opened by Owen Poplett the Chair at 1930hrs.

In the absence of a Secretary Penny Furtado took the minutes.

Those present Owen Poplett, Dusty Miller, Alwyn Evans, Anne Darling, Richard Bates, Lenny Wheeler, Chris Gillings, Brian Donald, Graham Castelle, Colin Jaques, Kevin Claxton, Stuart Hedges, Dave Cherry, Frank Hooper, John Batley, Terry Clothier, Geoff Randle.

Apologies for absence.

Alan Haffenden, Mandy Moon, Alan Costello, Tim Mottram, Freya Carter, Mike Tagg, Andrew Standing, Phil Mears, Lee Floyd, Zoe Dawes, Elisa Ratusniak

Minutes of the previous meeting Matters arising

Read through and no matters arising. They were proposed as an accurate reflection of the meeting by Richard Bates, seconded by, Frank Hooper and all those present voted in favour.

Chairs Report and Secretary's report

Chairs and Secretary's Report OP – attached.

Opened with acknowledgements and thanks for the services of Dave Frey, Anne Darling, Alain Jacquet and Dusty Miller for their roles in previous roles as Secretary, Chair/Vice Chair, Assistant Treasurer and Commodore

Cruising report – summaries were provided in relation to the trips throughout the previous year and touched on the 2016 Calendar

Thanks were given to Terry Clothier and Dusty Miller for their work on Scuttlebutt and the Website. Not forgetting thanks to the committee for keeping the club running. A Full Copy of the Chairs report is attached.

Financial report AE

The clubs finances are in a healthy state and we can look forward to a good sailing season.

Financially the club commenced 2015 season with;

- Balance of £177 carried forward from previous season
- £1860 SPSA grant for year 2015 –16
- £1925 in members charter contributions & Associate fees
- Charters totalled £3169.00
- Club Insurance £618.00
- Our RNLI donation this year from the £1 member's contribution will be £150.
- Racing Balance £216 c/f from previous year
- Racing Grant was £2600
- Members contributions £1000.

We have been able to pay for the 2016 Frostbite charters from 2015 funds and also deposit & race entry for 2016 UKFSC

The current cost of sailing with the club is £25 per day and financially there is no reason to increase this at this time

Rule Changes.

The changes were discussed and passed

Existing Rule.

3. MANAGEMENT

- i.* The 'Officers' of the 'Committee' shall consist of - Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Webmaster. The remainder of the committee will be formed from the elected area 'Representatives'.
- ii.* Re-election of the 'Officers' and 'Representatives' shall take place at each Annual General Meeting. If an officer retires or resigns from the Committee, a temporary appointment may be made at a Special Committee meeting.
- iii.* The AGM will be held each year, before the end of the financial year and members will be given at least 21 days notice of the date. Only full members may vote at the AGM.

Proposed Rule Changes.

3. MANAGEMENT

- i. General Committee:** The Club will be managed by a General Committee elected by Members every two years at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee will be composed of 6 'Officers', supported with Area Representatives, who all 'report' to the General Committee and have the following roles & responsibilities.

Commodore: Principle Flag Officer and Member of the Committee. Sets the direction for the Club. Can vote on committee matters. Has a casting vote at the Annual General Meeting and Committee Meetings in the event of equal votes for and against a decision,

(In effect the previous Chairperson)

Vice Commodore: Second in Command and Member of the Committee. Deputises for Commodore in their absence. Can vote on committee matters.

(In effect the previous Assistant Chairperson).

Secretary: Member of the Committee. Responsible for all Club records, maintaining all Club legal documentation, Can vote on committee matters.

Assistant Secretary: Member of the Committee. Assistant and deputises for the Secretary in above functions. Can vote on committee matters.

Treasurer: Member of the Committee. Responsible for all Club finances. Can vote on committee matters.

Assistant Treasurer: Member of the Committee. Assistant and deputises for the Treasurer. Can vote on committee matters.

Area Representatives: Members of the Committee. Elected by the Committee. Can vote on committee matters.

In the event of one person holding two or more of the officer posts on the Committee, that person will have one vote not a vote for each post held.

Other Key Roles: (non General Committee)

Web Master*: Responsible for the management and updating of the Club web site.

Training*: Responsible for advising and promoting training within the Club.

Scuttlebutt Editor*: Responsible for the editing and publishing of the Club publication.

*The above 'Key Roles' may be undertaken by a Member of the Committee as an ancillary responsibility, or a non-Committee member.

- ii. Election of the 'Officers' and 'Representatives' of the General Committee shall take place every two years at the Annual General Meeting. If an officer retires or resigns from the Committee between two Annual General Meetings, the committee may co-opt a member to sit as that officer with full voting rights, without the need for an Annual General Meeting, but the post must then be put for election at the first Annual General Meeting following the vacancy arising.
- iii. The Annual General Meeting will be held each year, before the end of the financial year and the Secretary will issue a notice to members not less than 45 days prior to the Annual General Meeting, of those Committee Officers standing for re-election, forthcoming vacancies and inviting applications from members for election as a Committee Officer. Nominations should be returned to the Secretary not less than 31 days prior to the Annual General Meeting and these will be circulated by the Secretary together with Notice of Annual General Meeting and Agenda at least 21days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

Proposal to delete existing rule 14.

14. FLAG OFFICERS

- i The Club currently has one Flag Officer - The Commodore.
- ii He/she has no voting rights.
- iii The office of 'Commodore' shall be filled by offering the post to a person decided upon by the Full Committee.

DM made reference to the Position of Commodore and his feeling that there should still be someone independent and separate to the committee in the position of Commodore. Following discussion it was agreed that this tradition stemmed from historic guidelines laid down by past Chief Constables and the majority felt that any sensitive matters should and could be dealt by the members and the committee.

GR referred to the role being a senior officer dating back to the years when all sections had to have an ACPO rank or at least Ch Supt as their figure head but this was no longer the case and it made sense to change the role of the Commodore.

All the rule changes were proposed by Frank Hooper, seconded by GR, 16 voted in favour, non voted against and 2 abstained.

Sussex Police Dinghy Sailing Club consideration to merge with SPOSC

RB explained that the dinghy club hadn't voted for a merger but had voted to for the Chair to approach the Chair of SPOSC to see whether there was scope for discussion about possible merger or collaboration of the two sections.

OP confirmed this had already been raised at committee and voted against. The issue was opened to the meeting for consideration, there was much discussion and input from a number of members which revolved around, were there any benefits to SPOSC and the potential risk of the SPSA grant being reduced if SPOSC and SPDSC became one sporting section. There was concern that if merged into one section the section would only be able to submit one grant request to SPSA plus the racing grant which is put in as a grant for PSUK.

RB was invited to propose his motion, no one present was prepared to second the motion therefore there was no vote.

Final conclusion a merger would not be considered by SPOSC, but collaboration was to be encouraged especially with regards to insurance matters and promotion of the Dinghy club through Scuttlebutt.

The principle reason for a merger being unsuitable was financial, as indicated by Dave Gaylor, SPSA, had advised the real likelihood of only one grant being honoured as compared to the current numbers of grants.

Election of committee

Commodore	Owen Poplett proposed by Dave Mallon, seconded by Elisa Ratusniak.
Vice Commodore	Alwyn Evans proposed by FH, seconded by CG.
Secretary	Penny Furtado proposed by Kevin Claxton, seconded by Chris Gillings
Assistant Secretary	Colin Jacques – Willing to remain, no other nominations
Treasurer	Alwyn Evans – Willing to remain, no other nominations
Assistant Treasurer	Anne Darling proposed by CG, seconded by BD.

There being no other nominations the meeting agreed the posts.

Skippers

Not raised as discussed in the Pre AGM committee meeting, OP is to approach skippers on a one to one basis to attempt to establish what may be hindering Skippers stepping up to arrange Charters.

Future events

Racing calendar referred to. Fire Service Sailing Challenge in April, one boat entered skippered by AE. Met Open will be taking place in October.

Any other business

PSUK will not be happening in 2016 but there is PSUK in 2017 so SPOSC need to think ahead.

Awards

Commodores Shield: for outstanding seamanship, commitment to the club and enthusiasm to learning awarded to Alwyn Evans.

Roger Dice Trophy for service to the club – Dave Frey

Scuttlebutt Trophy for the best or most prolific writer of the year – Brian Donald.

Portobello Cup for training achievement awarded to Dusty Miller for passing his Coastal Skipper assessment.

The meeting was closed at 21.00hrs.

SPOSC Chair's Annual Report

Annual General Meeting 2nd February 2016.

Welcome to the Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club's Annual General Meeting 2016.

The past year has seen your committee actively looking for ways to support the membership get on the water and enjoy sailing at an affordable price and develop their skills.

The year started off with the traditional Frostbite cruise between 16th and 20th March, three boats took part, two for whole week crews and one for split week crews, twenty three members were able to enjoy some good sailing and experience entering Gosport into a ferocious ebbing tide due to the solar eclipse.

The next event was the United Kingdom Firefighters Sailing Challenge in April. We entered a crew of seven skippered by Alwyn. Twenty six Teams entered the regatta, which was held in the Solent between Monday 27th and Thursday 30th April 2015. There was some close quarters racing during the seven races between the competitive teams and Alwyn Skippered Sussex to a highly commendable 5th place.

Sussex were unable to enter a team into the PSUK due to the availability of suitable skippers. In the end only three forces entered with the Met and Cleveland entering two boats each. There will not be a 2016 PSUK.

Lennie and Graham tried to run an owners rally but they were the only two boats and were unable to get sufficient crew. This may have been down to a communication issue as it transpired that the membership were unaware of the trip.

Alwyn ran a long passage trip which this year sailed to Dartmouth, with it has to be said some very fair winds.

There was no Met Open in October.

There was the potential to run additional charters but available skippers prevented them taking place.

As can be seen the club again ran several trips for its members, there were some trips missed out but others added to the traditional calendar. The important point is that members got out on the water and enjoyed some great sailing and socialising. I hope during 2016 SPOSC will provide opportunities for many of our members to enjoy affordable sailing and the opportunities to improve their own skills. The first trip of 2016 will be Frostbite which is being run between 6th and 11th March. The cost to members for the charter will be £125 for the full five days which demonstrates that the club is continuing to provide members with the opportunity to sail at incredibly cheap prices, an equivalent trip booked independently would be in the region of £500 per person. If anyone would still like to come on the trip please see me after the meeting.

Your management committee has again been busy this year with changes being drafted to the rules that were not looked at previously, with a view to ensuring that the issues that arose at last year's AGM do not occur again in the future. The club is fairly buoyant at this time so SPOSC will extend its

members sailing subsidies to include practical RYA courses to assist members to improve their skills and abilities with a view to using their qualifications to support the club. There were a number of other issues discussed either in committee or by email prior to a meeting. Other topics covered were skipper's availability for running charters. Sussex Police Dinghy Sailing Clubs wish for SPOSC to consider a merger and the 2016 sailing calendar.

If there are areas of the club you would like the committee to look at or charters you wish to see run then please contact any of the committee members so we can plan for you.

I hope you have all kept abreast with the club's activities through Scuttlebutt and the website. Both of these publications take considerable time to prepare especially with the website having had a complete make over. I would like to take this opportunity to thank, on behalf of all the membership the editor of Scuttlebutt Terry Clothier and for the website Dusty Miller for the time and effort they put into those publications for you the members.

I would like to say a big thank you to the members of the committee who give up their own time to keep the club running for you the members. They have all been very supportive during the year and I thank them for that too.

Unfortunately this year there are some resignations from the committee and our flag officer. I would like say a few words of thanks to them all.

Firstly to Dave Frey who has been the club's Secretary for a number of years and a very active member of both the racing and cruising aspects of the club. Dave is coming towards the end of his service, he has a number of plans for changes in his private and work life. Unfortunately these have made it difficult for Dave to carry on as Secretary. Dave did a sterling job in his role covering the general secretarial duties, liaising with Police Sport UK, other national bodies and managing the Racing Section finances. I know you the members will join me in saying thank you to Dave for his services to SPOSC and wishing him well in the future. I hope Dave will still find the time to race and cruise with the club.

Anne Darling discovered sailing and threw herself in at the deep end gaining as much experience as she could racing and cruising. Anne became Chair but then had to stand down at short notice after her first term when she retired and was offered a position with British Airways. Despite having to cope with the chore of jetting off to hot sunny climes each week she remains an active member. Anne remained on the committee as Vice Chair. During her term as Chair Anne's enthusiasm revitalised the committee encouraging it to be much more active. Anne's enthusiasm has also resulted in a number of new members joining the club and taking part in club events. Due to her travelling schedule Anne no longer feels able to give the committee the time she would like to invest. We wish her well in her new career and look forward to seeing her on SPOSC trips in the future.

Alain Jacquet has transferred to the British Transport Police and has therefore had to resign as Assistant Treasurer. I would like to thank Alain as he stepped up to the mark to stand on the committee when he had not been in the club that long. He was as enthusiastic in committee as he is on the water. I wish him well with BTP and look forward to sailing with him as he is remaining as an associate member of SPOSC.

Dusty Miller our Commodore has also decided to stand down as he has a busy year planned with his family. Dusty has been a stalwart of the club for a number of years and has held various positions on the committee. As Commodore he has provided sound advice and added useful alternative viewpoints during debates. He will continue to be as active as ever on the water, where I hope he will continue to mentor new members in the way that he mentored me and many others over the years, providing a wealth of experience and good advice. Again I am sure you will join me in thanking him for his services to the club over the years and wish him well for 2016.

Finally I hope you all have a great 2016 with many days on the water in good company with some terrific sailing.

Owen Poplett

SPOSC Chair.